

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A spring strut support bearing, comprising:
a top bearing having an inner ring by way of which the top bearing can be affixed to the end of a piston rod of a shock absorber connected to a vehicle body;
an outer ring surrounding the inner ring with radial clearance defining a gap therebetween, the outer ring being stationary with respect to the vehicle body;
at least one elastic spring element made of rubber-elastic material located in the gap formed by the clearance;
wherein the inner ring has two end faces, on each of which has at least one elastically flexible cellular polyurethane annular stop buffer independent from said at least one elastic spring element, said stop buffers being snap-fit into recesses formed in said end faces and limiting extreme deflection movements along a deflection direction defined by the motion of a shock absorber, each of the stop buffers having the capability of being brought into contact with counter stop faces, a central hole of each annular stop buffer arranged to receive the piston rod therethrough, the stop buffer of one end face substantially symmetric to the stop buffer of the other end face about a middle plane between the one end face and the other end face; and
the outer ring is fixedly mounted in an essentially cup-shaped flange, and the flange is fixedly joined to the vehicle body.

2. – 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A spring strut support bearing, comprising:

a top bearing having an inner ring adapted to affix the top bearing to the end of a piston rod of a shock absorber connected to a vehicle body;

an outer ring surrounding the inner ring with radial clearance defining a gap therebetween, the outer ring stationary with respect to the vehicle body;

at least one elastic spring element made of rubber-elastic material located in the gap formed by the clearance;

wherein the inner ring has two end faces with a plurality of openings that extend axially between the end faces, on each of which has at least one elastically flexible cellular polyurethane annular stop buffer independent from said elastic spring element, said stop buffers being disposed in said openings and adapted to limit extreme deflection movements along a deflection direction defined by the motion of a shock absorber, each of the stop buffers adapted to be brought into contact with counter stop faces, a central hole of each annular stop buffer arranged to receive the piston rod therethrough, the stop buffer of one end face substantially symmetric to the stop buffer of the other end face about a middle plane between the one end face and the other end face; and

the outer ring is press fit in a generally cylindrical portion joined to a bottom surface of the vehicle body.

15. (Previously Presented) The spring strut support bearing according to Claim 1, wherein said generally cylindrical portion is joined to a bottom surface of the vehicle body.

16. (New) The spring strut support bearing according to Claim 1, wherein the recesses are dovetailed.